

REMARKS

This Amendment is in Response to the Office Action dated October 10, 2006, in which claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-18, 20-24, 26-29, 31-33 and 35-38 were rejected, and claims 13, 25 and 34 were indicated as being allowable if re-written in independent form.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for withdrawing the previous grounds of rejection and for the indicated allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the above-amendments and the following remarks.

A. Claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-18, 20-24, 26-29, 31-33

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 13. Independent claim 14 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 25. Independent claim 26 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 34.

Although these independent claims are not amended to include the limitations of intermediate claims 12, 24 and 33, these claims now include the specific subject matter that was indicated as not taught or suggested by the cited references. (Office Action, section 5, second paragraph).

In addition, various dependent claims are amended to be consistent with the amendments made to the independent claims.

B. Claims 35, 36 and 38

Independent claim 35 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 37, which has been canceled.

Neither reference Almeida, Newman, nor Maes teaches or suggests either alone or in combination a step of generating a user prompt if the caller identified in step (h) (based on a recognized speech unit sequence using caller-specific language models) is different than the caller identified in step (d) (based on acoustic models of previously-identified callers), in the context of the remaining elements of claim 35.

Accordingly, claim 35 and its dependent claims 36 and 38 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

C. Claims 11, 23 and 32

Finally, claims 11, 23 and 32 are amended to clarify the wording of the claims, not to distinguish any particular prior art reference.

Thus all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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